

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LENDING 01694 01 OF 02 090722Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 HA-05 /042 W
-----130575 090726Z /11
R 090704Z JUN 78
FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4395
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LENINGRAD 01694

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, UR
SUBJ: AUTHORITIES BREAK UP OUTDOOR UNOFFICIAL ART
EXHIBITION

REFS: A. 77 LENINGRAD 0228, B. 77 LENINGRAD 1542,
C. 77 LENINGRAD 0004

1. SUMMARY. AGAINST CURRENT BACKGROUND OF REPRESSION
AND RELATIVE ISOLATION, LENINGRAD DISSIDENTS AND NON-
CONFORMISTS HAVE DRAWN HEART FROM OPENING OF
FRIDAY, JUNE 2, UNAUTHORIZED OUTDOOR ART EXHIBITION NEAR
MOSCOW STATION. WHAT MADE EXHIBITION PARTICULARLY
INTERESTING IS THAT IT SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN LARGELY
INITIATIVE OF A NEW GENERATION OF UNOFFICIAL ARTISTS,
ALTHOUGH RECENTLY RELEASED LENINGRAD ARTIST, VADIM
FILIMONOV, WAS ALSO INVOLVED. END SUMMARY.

2. TWENTY-THREE LENINGRAD NON-OFFICIAL ARTISTS BETWEEN
THE AGES OF 20 AND 25 DISPLAYED 120 WORKS JUNE 2 ON
SQUARE NEAR FORMER CHURCH OF CYRIL AND METHODIUS ON
SIDE STREET NEAR MOSCOW STATION. UNAUTHORIZED EXHIBITION
OPENED AT 11 A.M. SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF MILITIA WERE
PRESENT BUT THEY DID NOT INITIALLY INTERFERE WITH
EXHIBITION. HOWEVER, AT 2 P.M. MILITIA SURROUNDED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LENDING 01694 01 OF 02 090722Z

SQUARE AND, AFTER ORDER TO REMOVE EXHIBITION WAS NOT
OBEYED, FORCIBLY CLOSED IT DOWN. DESPITE SOME EFFORTS
AT RESISTENCE BY YOUNG ARTISTS, MILITIA THEN
PROCEEDED TO REMOVE ALL WORKS TO MILITIA VAN. WORKS,
HOWEVER, WERE NOT CONFISCATED, BUT REPORTEDLY WERE
DUMPED AT APARTMENT OF ONE OF PARTICIPANTS.

3. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION GIVEN TO US BY LOCAL DISSIDENT WRITER WITH WIDESPREAD CONTACTS AMONG CITY'S DISSIDENTS AND NON-CONFORMISTS, MILITIA APPARENTLY WERE AWARE OF PLANNED EXHIBITION SOMETIME IN ADVANCE. ON THE EVE OF EXHIBITION, LENINGRAD MILITIA REPORTEDLY PICKED UP FOR DETENTION PARTICIPANTS TIMUR NOVIKOV, LENA FIGURIKA, VERA TIKHOMIROVA, VADIM FILIMONOV AND PHOTOGRAPHER MARIA VALENTIN -- PERHAPS IN HOPE THAT THIS EXPRESSION OF OFFICIAL ATTENTION AND INTEREST WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO COOL ENTHUSIASM YOUNG ARTISTS AND CAUSE THEM TO CANCEL THEIR PLANNED EXHIBITION. ARTISTS REPORTEDLY WERE DRAWN LARGELY FROM TWO LENINGRAD ARTISTIC GROUPS ENTITLED "GROUP LETOPIS" AND "GROUP VIC-ALEN".

4. AS FAR AS WE KNOW, THIS WAS FIRST PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION THIS NEW GENERATION OF NON-OFFICIAL ARTISTS. IT HAS GREATLY BUOYED THE SPIRITS OF LENINGRAD'S DISSIDENT AND NON-CONFORMIST COMMUNITY WHICH HAS BEEN EFFECTIVELY COWED BY STRONG REPRESSIVE ACTIONS TAKEN DURING LAST YEAR AND A HALF BY HARD LINING LENINGRAD REGIONAL PARTY CHIEF AND POLITBURO MEMBER G. ROMANOV. WE HAVE NOT BEEN AWARE OF ANY SIGNIFICANT OUTDOOR POLITICAL DEMONSTRATIONS HERE, IN FACT, SINCE ARREST OF LENINGRAD SLOGAN PAINTERS IN FALL 1976 AND SENTENCING AND EXILE OF LENINGRAD POET AND DISSIDENT LEADER YULIYA VOSZENSKAYA, WHO HAD LED NUMBER OUTDOOR

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LENDING 01694 01 OF 02 090722Z

POLITICAL ACTIONS BEFORE HER DECEMBER 1976 TRIAL. OTHER THAN USUAL ZAMIZDAT AND WRITTEN APPEALS, LAST REAL ACT OF DEFIANCE HERE, OF WHICH WE ARE AWARE, WAS HOLDING OF NOV. 1977 UNOFFICIAL ART EXHIBITION IN THE APARTMENT LENINGRAD WRITER VADIM NECHAYEV AS GESTURE OF SOLIDARITY WITH OPENING OF VENICE BIENNALE. FOR THAT ACTION, NECHAYEV WAS EXPELLED FROM LENINGRAD WRITER'S UNION, AND KGB IS CURRENTLY REPORTEDLY PRESSING HIM TO EMIGRATE AGAINST HIS WILL.

5. AMONG MOST INTERESTING ASPECTS OF RECENT OUTDOOR EXHIBITION WAS REAPPEARANCE OF LENINGRAD DISSIDENT ARTIST VADIM FILIMONOV. FILIMONOV WAS SENTENCED IN DECEMBER 1976 TO YEAR AND A HALF FOR "HOOLIGANISM" AND WAS FEATURED AS PARTICULARLY DESPICABLE ELEMENT IN FEBRUARY 1977 LENINGRAD NEWSPAPER ATTACK ON FRG CONSUL DIETER BODEN. WE UNDERSTAND THAT FILIMONOV WAS RELEASED ONLY IN MAY AND HE APPARENTLY HAS WASTED NO TIME IN AGAIN TAKING UP ACTIVIST ROLE AMONG NON-OFFICIAL ARTISTS.

6. IN OTHER ACTIONS LENINGRAD SCULPTRESS GALINA POPOVA

(WIDOW OF YEVGENIY RUKHIN) WAS PERMITTED TO EMIGRATE
IN MAY AFTER TENACIOUS AND SUCCESSFUL STRUGGLE WITH
LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO TAKE OUT OVER 100 OF RUKHIN'S WORKS
WITHOUT PAYMENT OF CUSTOMS DUTIES. MAY 24 ANNIVERSARY
OF RUKHIN'S DEATH THIS YEAR PASSED WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT
EVENT. ANNIVERSARY WAS CAUSE OF DEMONSTRATIVE OUTDOOR
NON-OFFICIAL EXHIBITION AT PETER AND PAUL FORTRESS BROKEN
UP BY POLICE TWO YEARS AGO AND LAST YEAR WAS
OSTENTATIOUSLY BUT PRIMATELY, CELEBRATED BY CITY'S NON-

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LENDING 01694 02 OF 02 090721Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 HA-05 /042 W
-----130567 090726Z /11

R 090704Z JUN 78
FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4396
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LENINGRAD 01694

OFFICIAL ARTISTS. BUCHANAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARTS, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, EXHIBITS, DISSIDENT FACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LENING01694
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780241-0128
Format: TEL
From: LENINGRAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780677/aaaacoe.tel
Line Count: 149
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 47e1428c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 LENINGRAD 228, 77 LENINGRAD 1542, 77 LENINGRAD 4
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2419256
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AUTHORITIES BREAK UP OUTDOOR UNOFFICIAL ART EXHIBITION
TAGS: PINT, PINS, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/47e1428c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014